



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

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CHARGES FILED IN FATAL HUMAN SMUGGLING ROLLOVER

TUCSON – Federal charges were filed yesterday against a 31-year-old Mexican national in connection with the death of an illegal immigrant in a rollover accident Monday near milepost 282 on Interstate 10. Fortino Felipe-Agustine is charged with alien smuggling and smuggling resulting in the death of an alien, which carries a possible death sentence.

“One of our highest priorities is arresting and prosecuting smugglers who cause the death or injury of the migrants who hire them,” said Richard L. Bailey, deputy special agent-in-charge of investigations for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Tucson.

Officers with the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) were called to the scene of Monday’s accident where a 1988 Acura left the Interstate, crashed through a fence, rolled over and came to rest with one of the six passengers pinned underneath.

Four of the vehicle’s occupants were found lying on the side of the road. A fifth passenger was thrown approximately 35 feet from the car. One victim was pronounced dead at the scene and the other five were transported to a hospital for medical treatment.

Two of the vehicle’s passengers identified Felipe as the driver. He later admitted during questioning by ICE agents that he knew all of the occupants of the vehicle were illegal immigrants.

Felipe remains in U.S. Marshal’s custody pending further judicial proceedings while officials attempt to notify the deceased’s next of kin.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.